



Plant Science Practical Task: Go on a field trip!

If you take on this task you will:

- find out what it is like to go on a scientific field trip
- decide which essentials you will need to pack
- set off on your own field trip
- learn and practise some important scientific skills
- reflect on which skills you want to develop next

Are you up to the job?!

Contents

[Section 1: We value evidence](#)

[Section 2: Introducing the task](#)

[Section 3: Have a go!](#)

Section 1: We value evidence

Scientists gather evidence to help decide how we can protect plants, people and the planet for the future.



One way they find evidence is by going on a field trip.

They survey and map plants growing in the wild, record accurate data about the plants and their natural environment and collect samples for further study.

[Watch this short film made on a field trip to Nepal and look out for the many ways in which the scientists are gathering evidence.](#)

Our careers resources include a number of reflection stops. Here you can reflect on the information just covered. There are questions to help you think about whether this type of job is for you and to take note of which aspects you like or dislike.

Top tip: If you haven't already, start a careers reflection notebook to keep a note of your thoughts.



Reflection Stop: Field Trip

Do any of these activities spark your interest? What is it that appeals about the activity?

Continue to find out where you're going on a field trip.

Section 2: Introducing the task

What is the task?

You are going to plan a field trip in your local area to gather evidence about some of the local plants.

How will you get ready for this?



Pack your bag!

Scientists need to take equipment to help them collect and record evidence. They also need to be able to find their way around and to stay safe while they are there.

What do you think is the most important kit to have in your rucksack?

Jot down what you think in a 'to take list' in your notebook.

What did RBGE scientists take on their field trip to the tropical rainforest?

[Follow this link to explore a picture of 2 RBGE scientists displaying the kit they need to take when they go to a tropical rainforest.](#) Read through the tags to learn more about the equipment they need, and to find out about some of the skills they will use while they are there. Will you need any of this equipment on your field trip?

Now you're packed it's time to go outdoors and have a go! If you're ready continue to the next page.

Section 3: Have a go!

Time for your field trip!

Follow the two steps below while out on your field trip...

1. Choose an area near you where there are some wild plants growing. Your task is to be curious about one or more of the plants and gather some evidence about them.



Here are some examples of questions to ask and evidence to gather:

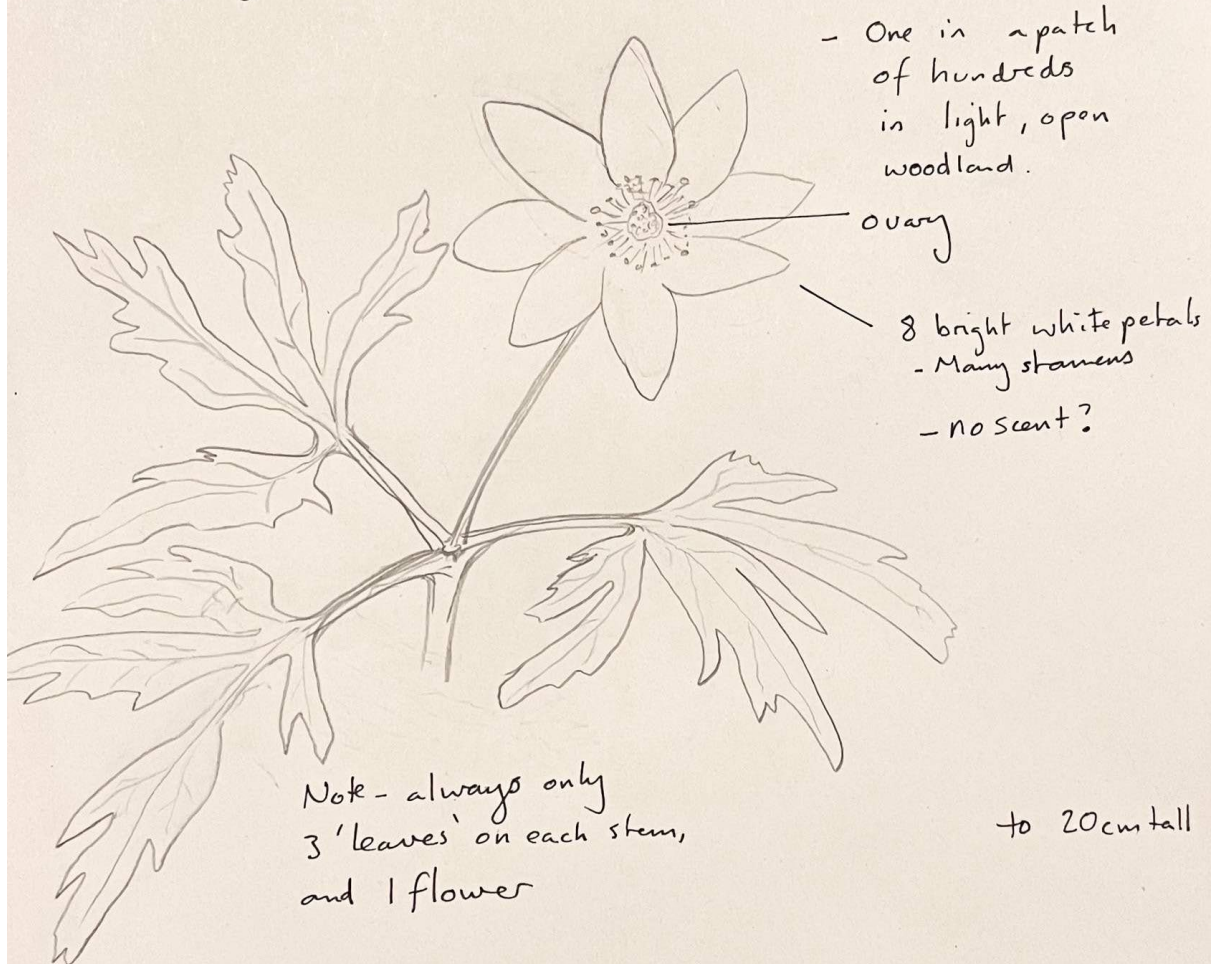
- Can you find out your plant's name?
- Does your plant have any different names?
- You could take a photo, draw a picture, write down some measurements or words to describe your plant.
- Is your plant flowering?
- What time of year is it?
- Where does your plant live?

- What does your plant live near?
- Are there any other creatures on your plant?
- While you are out, think about how you can help to protect biodiversity in your local area. How can you be part of SDG 15?

Top tip: use an app to help you with finding your plant's name, such as:

Windflower (*Anemone nemorosa*)

N. facing, Pentland hills, Lothians. 19th April 2022



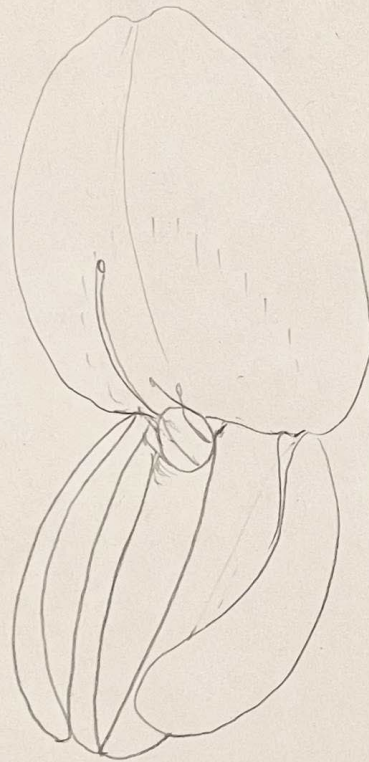
Gorse - Arthur's seat, Edinburgh
19th April '22

Latin name: *Ulex europaeus*

2m
spiny
shrub

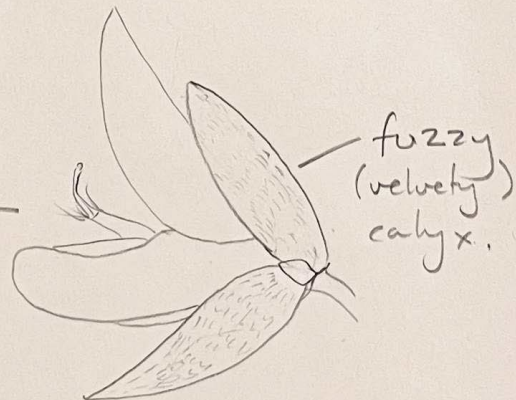


*COCONUT
SCENT!!*



bright yellow
petals

This one's been
'activated'
(visited by a bee).



Remember to stay safe on your field trip!

Check the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) to know your rights and responsibilities when making the most of Scotland's great outdoors.



Reflection Stop: What do you think makes a good scientist?

Here are some skills that are important in plant science. Which of these are your top skills?

Which skills would you like to develop?

- curiosity
- observing closely
- creativity
- collaborating
- communicating
- organising information
- finding patterns
- evaluating evidence

That's the end of the task!

We hope you enjoyed it. If you are finished with this task and would like to carry on exploring 'Careers in Plant Science' return to the online area on PropaGate Learning.